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CLAIMS

1. Device (10) for the adjustment of the bit rate of a stream of contents (CONT) as a function of processing capabilities of at least one receiver (1), said contents (CONT) being transmitted by a sender (2) to said receiver (1) via a network (5), according to a communication protocol providing for a return transmission of reception data (REP) of said contents (CONT) by said receiver (1) to said sender (2), said device (10) comprising :
 - 5 - a module (11) for inputting information relating to said capabilities,
 - 10 - a module (12) for estimating a required level for said bit rate at least as a function of said information,
 - 15 - and a module (13) for writing stream adjustment cues that is intended to write said adjustment cues for return transmission with said reception data (REP) to said sender (2), said adjustment cues being capable of bringing about a modification of said bit rate in relation to said required level,
- 20 characterized in that said communication protocol providing for a return transmission to said sender (2) of at least one parameter relating to conditions of communication of said contents (CONT) in said network (5) between said sender (2) and said receiver (1), the writing module (13) is intended to modify said parameter in such a way as to use it to transmit said adjustment cues.
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- 30 2. Adjustment device (10) according to Claim 1, characterized in that said communication protocol is the RTCP protocol.
3. Adjustment device (10) according to one of Claims 1 or 2, characterized in that said parameter of the protocol (DLSR) is intended to

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serve to calculate a round trip transmission delay (RTT) between said sender (2) and said receiver (1).

4. Adjustment device (10) according to Claim 3, characterized in
5 that said parameter of the protocol comprises a delay (DLSR) introduced at
said receiver (1) between a moment of reception of said contents (CONT)
and a moment of sending of said reception data (REP) by said receiver (1).

5. Adjustment device (10) according to any one of the preceding
10 claims, characterized in that said parameter of the protocol comprises a
contents loss rate (p).

6. Adjustment device (10) according to any one of the preceding
claims, characterized in that said writing module (13) is capable of modifying
15 said parameter by means of several successive variations of said parameter.

7. Adjustment device (10) according to any one of the preceding
claims, characterized in that said estimating module (12) is capable of
determining a value to be attained for said bit rate of said stream of contents
20 (CONT) also as a function of a rate of sharing of said capabilities of said
receiver (1).

8. Adjustment device (10) according to any one of the preceding
claims, characterized in that said input module (11) and estimation module
25 (12) are designed so that said processing capabilities of the receiver (1)
comprise at least one criterion of the performance of said receiver chosen
from among a data processing speed, a memory volume, an energy
consumption and a presence of components dedicated to the processing of
said contents (CONT).

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9. Reception terminal (1) characterized in that it comprises a device (10) for adjusting bit rate in accordance with any one of Claims 1 to 8.

10. Process for the adjustment of the bit rate of a stream of contents (CONT) as a function of processing capabilities of at least one receiver (1), said contents (CONT) being transmitted by a sender (2) to said receiver (1) via a network (5), according to a communication protocol providing for a return transmission of reception data (REP) of said contents (CONT) by said receiver (1) to said sender (2), said process comprising the following steps :

- a required level for said bit rate is estimated, at least as a function of information relating to said capabilities,
- and stream adjustment cues for return transmission with said reception data (REP) to said sender (2) are written, said adjustment cues being capable of bringing about a modification of said bit rate in relation to said required level,

characterized in that said communication protocol providing for a return transmission to said sender (2) of at least one parameter relating to conditions of communication of said contents (CONT) in said network (5) between said sender (2) and said receiver (1), said cues are written while modifying said parameter, in such a way as to use it to transmit said adjustment cues,

said adjustment process preferably being intended to be implemented by means of an adjustment device in accordance with any one of Claims 1 to 8.

11. Process for the adjustment of bit rate according to Claim 10, characterized in that said network (5) is a point-to-point communication network and the stream of said contents (CONT) is transmitted continuously.

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12. Computer program product comprising program code instructions for the execution of the steps of the process according to one of Claims 10 or 11 when the said program is executed on a computer.